

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-20. (Canceled).

21. (New) For use in a wireless network, a base station comprising an antenna array capable of transmitting forward channel data into S sectors associated with said base station, wherein said base station receives a plurality of data packets in a first data frame of a wireline connection, associates each of said received data packets with a corresponding one of said S sectors, and concurrently transmits at least some of said associated data packets in said corresponding sectors during a first subframe of a first forward channel data frame.

22. (New) The base station as set forth in Claim 21, wherein said first data frame of said wireline connection has a duration T, said first forward channel data frame has a duration T, and said first subframe has a duration less than T.

23. (New) The base station as set forth in Claim 22, wherein said base station is further capable of transmitting a first additional associated data packet in a first corresponding sector during a period of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

24. (New) The base station as set forth in Claim 23, wherein said base station is further capable of transmitting a second additional associated data packet in a second corresponding sector during said period of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

25. (New) The base station as set forth in Claim 24, wherein said base station transmits said first additional associated data packet and said second additional associated data packet sequentially.

26. (New) The base station as set forth in Claim 22, wherein said base station is further capable of transmitting a first additional associated data packet in a first corresponding sector in a first dedicated time slot of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

27. (New) The base station as set forth in Claim 26, wherein said base station is further capable of transmitting a second additional associated data packet in a second corresponding sector in a second dedicated time slot of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

28. (New) The base station as set forth in Claim 27, wherein said first dedicated time slot and said second dedicated time slot are sequential time slots.

29. (New) A wireless network comprising a plurality of base stations capable of communicating with a plurality of mobile stations in a coverage area of said wireless network, wherein a first one of said plurality of base stations comprises an antenna array capable of transmitting forward channel data into S sectors associated with said first base station, and wherein said first base station receives a plurality of data packets in a first data frame of a wireline connection, associates each of said received data packets with a corresponding one of said S sectors, and concurrently transmits at least some of said associated data packets in said corresponding sectors during a first subframe of a first forward channel data frame.

30. (New) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 29, wherein said first data frame of said wireline connection has a duration T , said first forward channel data frame has a duration T , and said first subframe has a duration less than T .

31. (New) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 30, wherein said first base station is further capable of transmitting a first additional associated data packet in a first corresponding sector during a period of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

32. (New) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 31, wherein said first base station is further capable of transmitting a second additional associated data packet in a second corresponding sector during said period of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

33. (New) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 32, wherein said first base station transmits said first additional associated data packet and said second additional associated data packet sequentially.

34. (New) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 33, wherein said first base station is further capable of transmitting a first additional associated data packet in a first corresponding sector in a first dedicated time slot of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

35. (New) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 34, wherein said first base station is further capable of transmitting a second additional associated data packet in a second corresponding sector in a second dedicated time slot of said first forward channel data frame following said first subframe.

36. (New) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 35, wherein said first dedicated time slot and said second dedicated time slot are sequential time slots.

37. (New) For use in a base station of a wireless network, a method of transmitting forward channel data into S sectors associated with the base station comprising the steps of:
receiving in the base station a plurality of data packets in a first data frame of a wireline connection;

associating each of the received data packets with a corresponding one of the S sectors; and
transmitting concurrently at least some of the associated data packets in the corresponding
sectors during a first subframe of a first forward channel data frame.

38. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 37, wherein the first data frame of the
wireline connection has a duration T, the first forward channel data frame has a duration T, and the
first subframe has a duration less than T.

39. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 38, further comprising the steps of:
transmitting a first additional associated data packet in a first corresponding sector during a
period of the first forward channel data frame following the first subframe; and
transmitting a second additional associated data packet in a second corresponding sector
during the period of the first forward channel data frame following the first subframe.

40. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 39, wherein the first additional associated
data packet and the second additional associated data packet are transmitted sequentially.